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INFORMATION FROM  
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REPORT

STAT

CD NO.

COUNTRY North Korea  
 SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture  
 HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical  
 WHERE PUBLISHED Seoul  
 DATE PUBLISHED May 1949  
 LANGUAGE Korean

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. 5 Aug 1949

NO. OF PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Ibuk T'ongain.FARMERS LEAGUE PERSECUTES FARMERS

The land reform in North Korea provides that farmers shall give to the Government 25 percent of the harvest as a partial payment on the land which they have received without cash payment. The so-called 25 percent is a camouflage system purely for the purpose of external propaganda, for the 25 percent in actuality amounts up to 60 to 70 percent of the harvest. The percentage system has never been explained explicitly. The partial payment of 25 percent of the harvest is a fixed amount determined on the basis of the estimate at the time of the land distribution with no further consideration of what the actual production may be in a given year. In other words, every farmer is obligated, under the terms of the land reform, to pay the Government the set amount of grain at the end of the harvest each year whether a farmer harvested enough grain or not. In addition, every farmer is required to give the Government a certain amount of his harvest as "patriotic rice" and the rest is taken away by Government authority under the Grain-Purchasing System.

The resultant effect upon the farmers is that after paying the usual 25 percent, "patriotic rice," and "selling" rice under the Government Grain-Purchasing System, the farmers have nothing left for themselves; therefore, the majority must go out to buy rice from the market almost the next day after the harvest. The tragic outcome of the North Korea land reform is illustrated in Myong village, Kosh'ang-myon, Kangdong County, Pyongan Namdo, where a farmer named Kim Ch'i-sam hid three bags of rice for the occasion of his son's forthcoming wedding. An agent of the Farmers League, Pak Wu-hwan, was tipped off by a local agent of this. An angered argument between the agent and the farmer took place over the three bags of rice. Finally, the agent shot and killed the farmer, his son, and his nephew. The agent Pak Wu-hwan was later decorated by Kim Doo Bong, chairman of the People's Assembly of North Korea regime, for his loyal and heroic action against the reactionaries.

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